



The Hal yard

A weekly newsletter for
Virginia's
Library Media Specialists
August 20, 2004

Charlie's chatter

This summer I worked the four ten hour days. Starting the day at 7:00 a.m. wasn't too bad but by 5:00 I realized that I was tired and yet I still had thirty minutes to go. So during that time, I choose to go to the stack of professional journals both library related and instructionally based and catch up on my reading. Wow! There was a lot to learn about. I will be sharing some of what I learned with you in the coming issues. If you read something that you really liked, please email me so that I can learn from you.

Happy sailing!

Linking Libraries Project Update

The first round of editing has begun. It is a monumental task to review the contents of 45+ files. In showing the work to non-library educators, the feedback has been positive and encouraging. They are surprised that library media specialists have the resources and the willingness to be such strong teaching partners. One former administrator who was lamenting that students aren't taught 'library-skills' anymore was very enthusiastic when she saw that those skills were an important part of this resource.

The resource will be in an electronic format so that library media specialists can download the appropriate grade level resources they need. An important feature is the ability of the document to allow the librarian to add local strategies, projects, and connections to technology. It will be a **Word** document rather than pdf so that the customization can be done. The resource will be posted on the library media section of the DOE web pages just prior to the November VEMA conference.

At the conference there will be several concurrent sessions to discuss how the resource can be used to develop high quality library programs. There will be one for K-2 and 3-5, a 6-8 and a 9-12 session. A session providing an overview of the project will also be conducted.



We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.



Stealing Digital Data

A recent report from the Business Software Alliance states that most kids know that it's illegal to download copyrighted digital materials but it does not stop them from doing it. Of 1,100 eight to eighteen year olds, 80% knew was wrong, and yet 53% continue to do it anyway. 26% said that it doesn't hurt anything to do it.

Visit their educational site for teaching resources,
<http://www.playitcybersafe.com/>

What would your Mother say!

Carol Mann Simpson posed that question to the participants of this summer's VEMA professional development day. She was asking us to explore the moral and legal issues of ethics that we face as library media specialists. Library media specialists struggle with many social issues when building their library collection. The challenge to provide both sides of controversial issues, banned books, and censorship issues all impact the school library program. She reminded us that our ethics or the lack of defines our profession.

According to Ms Simpson, a code of ethics is a statement of values. She listed the following ethical characteristics:

- Commitment to the public good
- Accountability to the public
- Respect for worth and dignity
- Inclusive of all social and justice issues
- Respect for pluralism and diversity
- Transparent, with integrity and honesty
- Steward of the resources
- And a commitment to excellence and to maintain the public's trust

Banned Books Week Ban No More in 2004

Captain Underpants is this year's spokesperson for Banned Book Week which is scheduled for September 25- October 4, 2005. Visit www.ala.org/bbooks to find a list of the top 100 most frequently challenged titles.

Required Reading

Take time to read the September 2004 issue of *School Library Media Activities Monthly*. It is packed with great teaching ideas, games, and articles. A new series of articles on connecting brain research with teaching information literacy skills in the school library media center begins this month and will continue for the next nine months.



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Treasure Chest

Be sure to share this with your faculty

[abcteach](#)

The elementary level site for flash cards, word puzzles, etc. has over 5,000 free printable pages!

[Blue Web'n](#)

An online catalog of 1,800+ Internet sites categorized subject, grade, and format. Includes Dewey Decimal classification and grade level information.

[Educator's Reference Desk](#)

2,000 lesson plans and much more. Search the ERIC databases from here.

[PBS Teacher Source](#)

Lesson plans and activities to support all of the PBS resources.

[Librarian's Index to the Internet](#)

Sign up for the free weekly newsletter listing the new websites added to this site developed by the California State Library.

[Bingo Card Maker](#)

[MathStories.com](#)

[Puzzlemaker](#)



by



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